

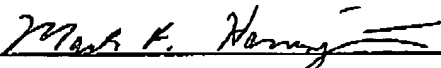
Appl. No.: 10/656,402  
Reply to Office Action of: 07/13/2005

REMARKS

Claim 17 has been canceled without prejudice and its features have been added to claim 1. Claim 18 has been converted from a dependent claim into independent form. This change in form does not narrow or limit the scope of the claim. The independent claim which claim 18 was formerly dependent upon has not been cancelled. Therefore, the full scope of the doctrine of equivalents should apply to claim 18 as if it was originally presented in independent form when the application was filed. The remaining claims have been cancelled without prejudice. In view of section 4 of the office action, this application should now be in condition for allowance.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Mark F. Harrington (Reg. No. 31,686)

10/11/05  
Date

Customer No.: 29683  
Harrington & Smith, LLP  
4 Research Drive  
Shelton, CT 06484-6212  
203-925-9400

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

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